REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-30 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 8-10, 12, 14-16, 23-25, 27 and 29-30 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,940,490 to Foster et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,996,707 to O'Malley et al. Claims 2, 13, 17-18 and 28 stand rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Foster in view of O'Malley and in further view of Lorello et al. Claims 3-7 and 19-22 stand rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Foster in view of O'Malley, in view of Lorello and in further view of Abu-Shukhaidem et al. Finally, claims 11 and 26 stand rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Foster in view of O'Malley, and in further view of Abu-Shukhaidem et al.

Each of these rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth below.

Each of the independent claims 1, 12, 16, and 27 is directed to an arrangement in a notification system for sending a notification message to a messaging server configured for identifying a user based on a destination telephone number in a first format. For example, independent claim 1 specifies a method including obtaining for the notification message a destination telephone number in a second format; converting the destination telephone number in the second format to the destination telephone number in the first format based on execution of a mapping rule selected based on a match between the mapping rule and at least a portion of the destination telephone number in the second format; and outputting the notification message having the destination telephone number having the first format.

Hence, the notification system can output notification messages to a messaging server configured for identifying the destination telephone number in the first format, independent of any further translation by an external switch or number translation resource. These and other features are neither disclosed nor suggested in the applied prior art.

Foster teaches, in a public switch telephone network, that a customer number (or Customer Name Address –CNA) is mapped to a Network Node Address (NNA). The communication network uses the NNA to properly route the call to the end office switch node. This enables a local number portability solution that routes relocated or moved numbers transparently of the telephone call routing scheme. claimed.

With regard to the claims, it appears that the Examiner is considering the NNA of Foster as the claimed obtained destination telephone number in the second format since the Examiner stated that Foster obtains "for the notification message a destination telephone number (column 7, line 4 'Network Node Address number') in a second format..." If the NNA of Foster is considered by the Examiner to be the obtained destination telephone number in the second format as claimed, then the NNA must be converted to a destination telephone number in a first format as claimed. Foster does not teach converting the NNA to another format.

If the Examiner is considering the CNA of Foster to be the claimed obtained destination telephone number in the second format, then the NNA would necessarily be the claimed destination telephone number in the first format. However, the claims recite a notification system for sending a notification message for

a user configured <u>for identifying the user based on a destination telephone number in a first format</u>. It is submitted that the NNA of Foster cannot be considered to be the claimed destination telephone number in the <u>first format</u> that identifies the user, since Foster teaches at column 7, lines 20-24 that the NNA is a <u>routing number</u> within the communication network <u>that specifies a specific switching node and a specified line or station thereof to which the call should be properly routed</u>.

Furthermore, the Examiner notes that Foster does not suggest a notification message to a message server and cites O'Malley as teaching a notification system for sending a notification message to a message server. The Examiner notes that system of O'Malley sends the calling number and called number to the subscriber. It is submitted that it would not have been obvious to provide the notification system of O'Malley in the system of Foster since, in Foster, the NNA is a routing number that is different from the calling number or called number of O'Malley and thus would not identify a subscriber.

For these and other reasons, the rejection of independent claims 1, 12, 16 and 27 and the claims that depend therefrom should be withdrawn.

With regard to claims 2, 13, 17-18 and 28, and claims 3-7 and 19-22, these claims depend from the independent claims and are considered to be allowable for the reasons advanced above, and for the additional reason that the added subject matter thereof is not taught or suggested by the prior art of record.

With regard to claims 11 and 26, the Examiner provides no indication as to how the primary references could be modified to include the feature of Abu-Shukhaidem. It is submitted that Abu-Shukhaidem does not even teach converting a national telephone number format to an international
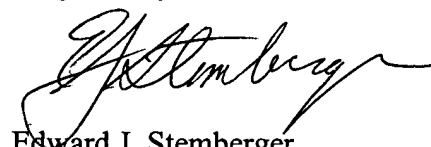
telephone number format. Abu-Shukhaidem merely states at column 2, lines 27-37 that a "database module can be modified for calling party number variability, for international use." Hence, absent the Applicant's disclosure, it is not evident how the Foster can be modified to replace the CNA and NNA with national and international telephone numbers as claimed. Thus, the rejection is improper and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is believed this application is in condition for allowance, and such a Notice is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1130 under Order No. 95-424, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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